



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 - 2733

August 18, 2017


The Honorable Eugene Herrera
Governor
Pueblo of Cochiti
P.O. Box 70
Cochiti, NM 87072

RE: **Pueblo of Cochiti – Cochiti Lake (PWSID #06568423) water system**; Failure to correct significant deficiencies identified in a sanitary survey under the Groundwater Rule

Dear Governor Herrera:

The Pueblo of Cochiti- Cochiti Lake (**PWSID #06568423**) **water system** has incurred a violation of the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations under the Groundwater Rule, specifically, for failure to correct significant deficiencies within 120 days of being notified by EPA. The EPA conducted a sanitary survey on April 15-16, 2015, and a report was submitted to the Pueblo on October 27, 2015. The water system had 120 days from the receipt of the report and transmittal letter to address the significant deficiencies identified during the sanitary survey or submit a schedule to EPA on when the deficiencies would be addressed. While some work has progressed, there are several significant deficiencies that have not been addressed and no schedule for completion has been submitted as listed below.

Well # 1

- 
- There is no vent in the well casing. The vent was being used for the static level indicator and was not properly sealed which allowed the well to vent and created a direct conduit for contamination into the aquifer. The vent should extend 18 inches from ground level and be turned downward and be screened with a 24 mesh screen.

Well # 2 (Golf Course)

1. • Casing is at ground level and should extend 18 inches above ground level.
2. • There is no sanitary seal on the well casing. There are opening all the way around the discharge pipe which create a direct conduit for contamination to the aquifer.
3. • The well has never been fully analyzed for the baseline well sampling parameters.
4. • There is no check valve for the pipes that serve the distributions system. The Cla-Valves is currently being used as a check valve.
5. • There is no well casing vent. It is currently venting through the openings around the discharge pipe.
6. • There are isolation valves that are not working and need to be repaired.
7. • The Cla-Valves need to be repaired to work properly. Because they need repair, the well can only be operated at a capacity of 600 gpm, normally it operates at over 900 gpm. The pre-surge valve has to be left partially open which leads to a continual discharge of water.
8. • There are air relief valves that were not inspected because of time constraints. Staff or RWA representative will inspect and send pictures.
9. • There is no emergency response plan on file with EPA.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
Failure to Correct Sanitary Deficiencies

The **Pueblo of Cochiti – Cochiti Lake water system (PWSID #06568423)** failed to correct significant sanitary deficiencies identified during a sanitary survey. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

What happened?

On April 15 and 16, 2015, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) performed a detailed inspection and engineering evaluation of our water system, called a sanitary survey. From this survey, the EPA identified significant deficiencies with each water system's facilities, operations and management, and most of these deficiencies remain unaddressed.

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do at this time. You do not need to boil your water or take other actions. We do not know of any contamination, and none of our testing has shown disease-causing organisms in the drinking water.
- You may continue to drink the water. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. But as our customer, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

However, these symptoms are not only caused by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What is being done?

For more information, please contact [name of contact] at [phone number] or [mailing address].

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.